

DFS QUARTERLY

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Fire Marshal's Permit Now Required for Explosives Storage Magazines

As a result of the emergency terrorism legislation approved by Acting Governor Swift on September 5, 2002, permits will now be required for all explosives storage magazines used in Massachusetts. The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations passed an emergency amendment to 527 CMR 13.00 on Thursday, November 7, 2002 as a result of the new legislation. This permit will be issued by the State Fire Marshal and will encompass all magazines used for storage of explosives in the Commonwealth. There will be inspections of each magazine and

inventory record keeping will be checked for compliance prior to the issuance of a permit. Inspections and subsequent permitting will begin just after the first of the year and will be coordinated with the local fire department in the community where the magazine(s) are kept.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services at 978-567-3300 or in Western MA, 413-587-3181. ♦

Mass Decontamination Units Deployed

On August 22, 2002, Public Safety Secretary James Jajuga and Public Health Assistant Commissioner Nancy Ridley announced a new program to respond to potential

terrorist incidents in Massachusetts involving contamination by chemical, radiological or biological agents. At the event, held at the Department of Fire

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*Non-ambulatory "victim" undergoes decontamination in demonstration
Photo by Sue Peltier*



From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

On December 3, 2002, Governor Jane Swift and Secretary James P. Jajuga honored 52 firefighters from ten communities at the 13th annual Firefighter of the Year award ceremony. The event was held at Faneuil Hall and attended by family, friends and firefighters from across the state. Firefighters were honored for heroic and brave acts such as keeping a cardiac patient alive until a trans-atlantic flight could turn around and land in Europe, for rescuing several young children from a fire and for preventing exposure fires from a commercial fire in a dense neighborhood. Governor Swift said she was pleased to have one of her last official acts be to honor the brave men and women of the fire service. The special Fire Marshal's award was given to the nearly 300 members of the nine hazardous materials response teams in Massachusetts. There are six regional teams and the Boston, Cambridge, and Springfield Fire Departments each staff a hazardous materials team.

These hazardous materials technicians ran day and night responding to suspicious powder calls after last year's anthrax attacks. Fortunately there has been no case of anthrax in Massachusetts, but these specially-trained firefighters responded to every call, and continue to respond, knowing it can happen here.

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From the Fire Marshal

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Three Medals of Valor were presented to firefighters from Chelsea, West Springfield and Longmeadow. Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct were presented to teams of firefighters from Boston, Fitchburg, and Watertown. Individual Citations for Meritorious Conduct were presented to firefighters from Amherst, Boston, and Hull. The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to two members of the Worcester Fire Department.

S.A.F.E. Grants

Secretary of Public Safety James P. Jajuga has allocated federal funds to continue support for public fire education. The Department of Fire Services has been allocated \$600,000 in two grants. The first \$300,000 is being awarded to fire departments this fall and the second \$300,000 will be awarded in the spring of 2003. A single application for consideration for both was mailed to all fire chiefs in November and are due back at the Department of Fire Services 5 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2002.

This grant program will still be called the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) program and will continue to be a fire prevention education program designed to equip elementary, intermediate, and high school students with skills for recognizing the dangers of fire, specifically, the fire hazards smoking-related materials pose, and the hazards of fire in the school environment. The program utilizes specially trained firefighters to teach fire and life safety education. With the new funding sources, the program now seeks to highlight fire safety in the schools and educational facilities. We will have the opportunity to look at creative ways to address fire safety and fire prevention within the school building itself.

While I am grateful for the Secretary's support for public fire education, I do

realize that this will not completely restore the lost funding for the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program that was already stretched thin. Many fire departments have creatively leveraged community resources to keep their core public education programs alive as we plan for next year. We greatly appreciate their continued efforts to provide high quality public fire education to our citizens. ♦

Licensing Exams

All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The same exams are given on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

Cannon/Mortar/Fireworks/ Special Effects

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Room 109

December 10, 2002

Fire Extinguishers

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Auditorium

January 15, 2003

Blasting

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Room 109

January 13, 2003

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. ♦

Recent Amendments to Fireworks CMR

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations (BFPR) has passed an emergency amendment to 527 CMR 2.00 as a result of a fireworks accident that injured two people. The accident involved a fireworks device known as a "cake", which malfunctioned and caused minor injuries to a spectator and a firefighter approximately 300' from the device. The amendment requires burial of the cake and an additional distance of 210 feet from the device to the spectators. The cake itself consists of a bundle of small mortar tubes that are bound together with wire and plastic strapping. The device that failed malfunctioned to the point where the wires and strap broke allowing the 50 plus tubes in the device to tip over and fire horizontally rather than vertically. The combination of increased distance from spectators and burial of the device is expected to provide a much wider range of safety when these devices are used.

The BFPR is now considering public comments regarding this amendment and once final approval is given to the new language additional notifications will be made to all fire departments in the Commonwealth. Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services at 978-567-3300 or in Western MA, 413-587-3181. ♦

Heart Attack Leading Cause of Death for Firefighters

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) released a comprehensive study on October 23, 2002 which examines the causes of deaths for “on-duty” firefighters. The *USFA Firefighter Fatality Retrospective Study: 1990-2000* is an in-depth analysis as to the causes for more than 1,000 on-duty deaths which have occurred in the United States during the last decade of the 20th century. The goal of the study is to identify trends in firefighter mortality, and use the information to help reduce firefighter deaths by 25% in 5 five years.

The key findings of the study include:

- The leading cause of death for firefighters is heart attack (44%). Death from trauma, including internal and head injuries, is the second leading cause of death (27%). Asphyxia and burns account for 20% of firefighter fatalities.
- Each year in the United States, approximately 100 firefighters are killed while on duty and tens of thousands are injured. Although the number of firefighter fatalities has steadily decreased over the past 20 years, the incidence of firefighter fatalities per 100,000 incidents has actually risen over the last 5 years, with 1999 having the highest rate of firefighter fatalities per 100,000 incidents since 1978.
- Firefighters under the age of 35 are more likely to be killed by traumatic injuries than they are to die from medical causes (e.g., heart attack, stroke). After age 35, the proportion of deaths due to traumatic injuries decreases, and the proportion of deaths due to medical causes rises steadily.
- Since 1984, motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) have accounted for between 20 and 25 percent of all firefighter fatalities, annually. One-quarter of the firefighters who died in MVCs were killed in private, personally owned vehicles (POVs). Following POVs, the apparatus most often involved in fatal collisions were water tankers, engines or pumpers, and airplanes. More firefighters are killed in tanker collisions than in engines and ladders combined.
- About 27% of fatalities in MVCs were ejected from the vehicle at the time of the collision. Only 21% of firefighters were reportedly wearing their seatbelts prior to the collision.
- Approximately 60 percent of all firefighter fatalities were individuals over the age of 40, and one-third were over the age of 50. Nationwide, firefighters over the age of 40 make up 46 percent of the fire service, with those over 50 accounting for only 16 percent of firefighters. About 40 percent of volunteer firefighters are over the age of 50, compared to 25 percent of career firefighters.
- The majority of firefighter fatalities (57%) were members of local or municipal volunteer fire agencies (including combination departments, which are comprised of both career and volunteer personnel). Full-time career firefighters account for 33% of firefighter fatalities. Numerically more volunteer firefighters are killed than career personnel, yet career personnel lose their lives at a rate disproportionate to their representation in the fire service.
- In many fire departments, EMS calls account for between 50 and 80 percent of their emergency call volume. These EMS incidents result in only 3% of firefighter fatalities. Trauma (internal/head) accounts for the deaths of 50% of firefighters who were involved in

EMS operations at the time of their fatal injury. Another 38% involved in EMS operations died from heart attack.

For the past 25 years, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) has tracked the number of firefighter fatalities and conducted an annual analysis. Through the collection of this information on the causes of firefighter deaths, the USFA is able to focus on specific problems and direct national efforts to finding solutions for the reduction of firefighter fatalities in the future. The information in this study is also used to measure the effectiveness of current programs directed toward firefighter health and safety. One of the USFA main program goals is a 25% reduction in firefighter fatalities in 5 years and a 50% reduction within 10 years.

The complete report may be viewed and downloaded from the USFA web site at: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/inside-usfa/fa-220.cfm> ♦

Wheaton College Installs Sprinklers in All Housing

The Norton Fire Department honored the Wheaton College President and Board of Trustees during Fire Prevention Week for an outstanding achievement in fire prevention. Over the past year, the college voluntarily installed more than \$2 million sprinklers in 11 on-campus housing buildings. The project was completed before the opening of school this past September. The college went above and beyond what is required to keep students safe from fire. ♦



Good Arson Case Makes Murder Charges Stick

On July 18, 2000, a fire occurred inside the function room of a multi-unit condominium complex in Malden, MA. North team investigators responded to the scene to assist the Malden Fire Investigation Unit. During the origin and cause examination, a large amount of gasoline and blood was discovered in and around the area of origin of the fire. At that time, state police detectives from the Middlesex State Police Detectives Unit were summoned to the scene along with troopers and state chemists from Crime Scene Services Section. A criminal investigation was initiated. A videotape was seized from a nearby gas station which captured an occupant of the condo complex purchasing a small amount of gas and pumping it directly into a container inside his vehicle approximately 19 minutes prior to the fire. The occupant was identified as Thomas Crouse, a convicted rapist who later lied to the troopers about his activities. Nine months later, the body of a missing 14-year old Malden girl was found in a shallow grave in New Hampshire. Middlesex State Police detectives had seized Crouse's cell phone records which placed him within a few miles of where the body was found on the day of the fire. Crouse was subsequently arrested and charged. On Friday, September 27, 2002, after a lengthy three-week trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Crouse was convicted of first degree murder and arson of an occupied dwelling. This was an extremely complex circumstantial case which included 69 prosecution witnesses. It also included expert testimony from various technical fields, including many officers from various units of the Massachusetts State Police (Middlesex Detectives, Crime Scene Special Services, Crime Lab, OSFM, K-9), regarding blood spatter, DNA, fibers, ignitable liquids, finger-

prints, sprinkler and fire protection, origin & cause experts, computer modeling experts, homicide and cause of death experts. Despite a "high-priced" defense team (paid for by the defendant's wealthy step-father) including two attorneys and two hired guns from Hughes Associates, (a national fire protection company), along with an origin and cause expert, the DA's Office, State Police and the Malden Police and Fire Departments prevailed thanks to an outstanding prosecutorial effort by ADA Adrienne Lynch who systematically and methodically discredited the defense witnesses and experts while giving credence to the thorough investigation conducted by a large team of true professionals. Ms. Lynch worked extremely hard to become an expert herself in many of these technical areas and worked long hours to be ready to prosecute this case. Investigators often received voice or e-mail messages from her sent near midnight from her office. Don't be surprized if this isn't one the cases that Law and Order "rips from the headlines." ♦

FIU Gets Computerized Case Reporting System

The Fire and Explosion Investigation Section also received a grant for *Enhanced Fire Investigation and Training* that enabling the unit to update its existing computerized case reporting system. The software application was enhanced with new data fields and pull-down menus to enable investigators to shorten the narrative portions of their reports while allowing them to capture more data relating to the specifics of the fire scene such as the types of property, subject matter experts involved, case status revisions and extended free text fields. An automated weekly report of unit activities is now generated out of the case summaries for each investigation or incident response. A significant

innovation developed for this product was the addition of a case review process where the Lotus Notes application automatically notifies investigators and supervisors of their open cases on a monthly basis. Finally, a third-party software package called IntelliView transforms Notes data into spreadsheet and database tables to allow more statistical summarization of case information.

CaseBook Application: The next generation case reporting application, Casebook is also well into development as a result of work performed during this period. Casebook takes all the enhancements developed in the case reporting application and brings them to the Lotus Notes 5.0 environment with its expanded capabilities. Unfortunately, this part of the software upgrade has not been completed and additional funding is being sought to complete Casebook. ♦

New Safety Equipment for Bomb Squad

Working in conjunction with the Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Massachusetts State Police and Department of Fire Services, the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section has received federal funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Domestic Preparedness. This funding will enable the Hazardous Devices Unit to procure updated bomb suits for its officers. MEMA is procuring this equipment as part of the Commonwealth's State Strategy for Domestic Preparedness, enabling the bomb squad to outfit all of its bomb technicians with state of the art protective equipment. This is an especially timely program given the continued threat to domestic security and the tendency for terrorists to use bombs as a tool of terror. ♦

DFS Employees Honored with Rooney Public Service Award

by Barbara Steele

Governor Jane Swift announced that all of the employees of the Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Section and the members of the six regional Hazardous Materials Response teams were one of two recipients of the 2002 Eugene H. Rooney, Jr. Public Service Award. This award is given annually to employees who best exemplify excellence in the field of human resource development and training. The award was presented to representatives of the different divisions and groups at an event at the State House on November 21. It is being presented for *Response to September 11th and Beyond*.

State Fire Marshal Coan and Deputy State Fire Marshal Leonard made the nomination to include all full-time personnel, all fire instructors and support staff, the State Police complement of officers and troopers assigned to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the municipal firefighters who serve in an emergency response role as hazardous materials technicians and support personnel, and the consultant contractors who provide a myriad of services to the agency. This is the first time that this award has been extended to include contract or "03" personnel.

The events of September 11 had an immediate effect on the agency and its core missions. However, the more far ranging impacts were felt in the months that followed. In many cases, even today, the agency continues to operate at an extremely high level of activity in response to emergencies and preparation for the future. The work conducted by the entire agency during this period increased the commitment and intent of the Department of Fire Services to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the highest level. Some of the units worked around the clock to respond to the large volume

of emergency calls. The agency, in a very short timeframe, had assessed and re-designed its activities and structure to ensure that the public's safety was intact. Conference rooms became bunkrooms for emergency response teams.

As a result of the September 11 events, the agency has worked to improve its response time to citizens during emergencies. The "HazMat" unit is constantly on the alert and working with the Department of Public Health and other agencies to maintain an exceptional first responder role should disaster strike. Fire Academy staff developed several training programs and delivered these programs to several hundred communities in a three week time span. They have continued to deliver a high level of programs related to terrorism to date. The academy is continually refining how communications and advisories are distributed to fire personnel on emergency procedures, new techniques, or warnings. The "bomb squad" and technical staff in the Office of the State Fire Marshal division are vigilant in their efforts to contain the storage and transportation of explosives on our state's highways and roads.

Eight hundred and fifty-five (855) municipal and state employees worked around the clock when the call came for action. Every individual at DFS used their skills and abilities to ensure the protection and safety of Massachusetts citizens. This small agency was able to pull together and mobilize hundreds of emergency and other staff to respond to the calls of public officials and Massachusetts residents who were experiencing fear and hysteria subsequent to the 9-11 events. DFS staff helped to make Massachusetts citizens believe in the confidence of state government and its public safety officials, and the agency continues to remain in ready response mode should they be called upon.

The post September 11 terrorist attack

has demonstrated that DFS can and does respond with pride, courage, and excellence to "answer the call".

To all full-time and part-time employees of DFS, State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and firefighters who serve on "HazMat" Teams, congratulations. ♦

Who Was Eugene Rooney

by Thomas Abbott

I first met Gene Rooney as a caddy at Wollaston Golf Course in Quincy when we were in the 7th grade, after which we went to high school and college together.

After finishing his military service in the early '70's, Eugene H. Rooney Jr. began working for the Commonwealth as a manager in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Program (CETA). For the next two decades, he worked for the Department of Personnel Administration (now HRD) in support of those who viewed Public Service as an honorable way of life, and he worked enthusiastically to increase both training and development opportunities for public servants.

During his years as Deputy Personnel Administrator, he was responsible for working directly with cities and towns who chose to use Civil Service, and he gained a special affinity for those in public safety.

In his professional and personal life, he maintained a positive attitude, a calming demeanor, a wry sense of humor, and the ability to communicate the respect he felt for public servants.

I know that he would be pleased that the men and women of the Department of Fire Services are the recipients of the award established in his honor. ♦

NEWS FROM CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed.

September 12, 2002 - Release # 02-249

Northern Tool & Equipment Announces Recall of Air Compressors

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02249.html>



September 12, 2002 - Release # 02-250

Chargetek Announces Recall of Battery Chargers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02250.html>



September 17, 2002 - Release # 02-251

EV Global Motors Co. Announces Recall of Lithium Batteries in Electric Bikes

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02251.html>

September 19, 2002 - Release # 02-253

Nikon Inc. Announces Recall of Coolpix 2000-Model Digital Cameras

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02253.html>



September 19, 2002 - Release # 02-254

Black & Decker Announces Recall of Cordless Electric Lawn Mowers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02254.html>



October 1, 2002 - Release # 03-001

Pier 1 Imports Announces Recall of Glass Candleholder

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03001.html>

October 2, 2002 - Release # 03-003

Invensys Building Systems Announces Recall of Siebe Actuators in Building Fire/Smoke Dampers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03003.html>

October 8, 2002 - Release #03-005

Thrifty Paper Co. Announces Recall of Electric Fans

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03005.html>



October 8, 2002 - Release # 03-006

Value City Announces Recall of Red Devil Gas Grills Sold at Value City and Schottenstein Stores

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03006.html>

October 8, 2002 - Release # 03-007

Viking Sewing Machines Inc. Announces Recall of Sewing Machines

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03007.html>

CPSC News

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October 16, 2002 - Release #03-014

Target Corp. Announces Recall of Decorative Jack-O-Lanterns

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03014.html>

October 16, 2002 - Release # 03-015

Pottery Barn Announces Recall of Halloween Candleholders

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03015.html>



October 17, 2002 - Release # 03-019

W.C. Wood Company Announces Recall of Dehumidifiers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03019.html>

October 22, 2002 - Release # 03-023

Brother International Announces Recall of Laser Printers

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03023.html>



October 29, 2002 - Release # 03-026

Jason International Inc. Announces Recall of Air-Whirlpool Baths

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03026.html>

October 31, 2002 - Release # 03-028

Carlisle Co. Announces Recall of Snake Lights

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03028.html>



November 12, 2002 - Release # 03-034

Eveready Battery Co. Inc. Announces Recall of Kidz Club Flashlights

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03034.html>



November 13, 2002 - Release #03-037

Stihl Inc. Announces Recall of Chain Saws

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03037.html>



September 26, 2002 - Release # 02-255

CPSC Urges Seasonal Heating Systems Inspections to Prevent CO Deaths

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml02/02255.html>

October 9, 2002 - Release # 03-008

CPSC Warns: Millions of Americans Have Smoke Alarms that Don't Work

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03008.html>

October 18 2002 - Release # 03-021

CPSC Alerts Outdoor Enthusiasts: New Portable Heaters Can Save Campers' Lives

ODS technology will help prevent CO poisoning deaths

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03021.html>

November 4, 2002 - Release # 03-030

CPSC Reminds Consumers to Check for Recalled Cadet In-Wall Heaters

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03030.html> ♦

MFIRS v5 Coding Tips

Building Fires

If you have a fire in any building the correct code for Incident Type = 111 - Building Fire

If the fire (in the building) is confined to a noncombustible container then you could code the Incident Type as:

- 113 - Cooking fire
- 114 - Chimney of flue fire
- 115 - Incinerator overload or malfunction
- 116 - Fuel burner/boiler malfunction
- 117- Commercial compactor fire
- 118- Trash or rubbish fire

Then all you have to complete is the Basic Form (pp. 1 & 2)

If the flame goes beyond the noncombustible container it becomes an Incident Type = 111 and you must complete the Basic, Fire and Structure Fire forms.

Never use Incident Type = 100 (Fire, other) or 112 (Fire in structure other than in a building) for a fire in any type of building.

If you have any question for any type of coding in MFIRS feel free to contact me at (978) 567-3382 or Derryl.Dion@state.ma.us.

If you feel your department needs more training on MFIRS v5 and can guarantee 15 students, please contact me to set up an MFIRS v5 class. It is a 4 hour MFA class and now comes with 4 OEMS credits. Enrollment must include other local departments. ♦

USFA Reduces NFIRS Schedule of Changes to Once A Year

In mid-November, the U.S. Fire Administration announced a change in policy and has agreed to limit specification changes to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to only once per year, to announce them three months prior to implementation, and to ensure that every fire incident report once accepted by the system remains valid.

At the October annual meeting of the National Fire Information Council (NFIC), Massachusetts offered a resolution asking them to recommend to the U.S. Fire Administration a two year moratorium on further changes to the specifications of NFIRS. The resolution was defeated, but a compromise resolution asking the USFA to limit specification changes to only once per year, to announce them three months prior to implementation, and to ensure that every fire incident report once accepted by the system remains valid, was passed. Massachusetts then asked the members of the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) to endorse the resolution passed by NFIC.

Because Massachusetts is committed to the success of version 5 of the NFIRS, we are very pleased at this policy action.

Below is some of the reasoning and rationale that State Fire Marshal Coan presented to the National Fire Information Council on why this was so necessary for the Massachusetts Fire Service.

Background

Since 1980, when Massachusetts started using NFIRS v3, there had only been two updates to the system from NFIC/

USFA. That's two changes in approximately 20 years time. With version 5, we get announced system changes and updates every six months with unannounced changes and updates occurring periodically. Fire departments, third party vendors and the Office of the State Fire Marshal cannot keep up with all these changes. It is also confusing and difficult for fire departments to be constantly installing upgrades and then reworking the 'bugs' out of the system that inevitably come with each software upgrade.

140 Invalid Reports for a Two Week Period After Rules Changes

According to the USFA, these semi-annual rules changes are supposed to help the user and make the system easier to handle and maintain. In theory, it should be easier to get a report through the system. An incident that was submitted correctly to us should remain 'Valid' even after a rules change.

During this past summer we (Massachusetts Office of the State Fire Marshal) spent a month cleaning up all of the 2001 incident reports that MFIRS had marked as 'Invalid' when they were originally submitted to us. After 'cleaning up' approximately 800+ incident reports we exported the first two weeks of January 2001 and re-imported them into the system. We did this exercise to check on data quality. NFIRS marked around 140 of these incidents as 'Invalid'. The only thing that was changed in the system is that we uploaded the set of rules changes from January 2002 (we hadn't even uploaded the changes from July 2002).

Currently if an incident report is returned to a fire department because it was marked as 'Invalid' it could be one of four reasons.

MFIRS Corner

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1. It may actually be a coding error made by the local fire department.
2. The local fire department's software may not be the most current version of NFIRS.
3. OSFM's software may not be the most current version.
4. There may be an error in the Federal Client Tool (FCT).

- E.g. When we used the FCT to convert v4 data to v5, the system incorrectly created a structure fire module for every brush fire. It then created an error report saying that these incidents were 'Invalid' and had to be corrected before being saved.

It takes Six Months To Implement One Round of Changes

It takes our office approximately six months to implement one round of changes statewide. As soon as we have everyone on board, USFA initiates another round of changes. All these modifications consume staff resources which could be better spent either analyzing the data collected, publishing the results through various written and spoken means, entering the data, or concentrating on making our own methods and procedures that much more efficient and renowned. We have had some very seasoned fire service personnel, some of which are very experienced instructors and fire officers, regularly ask for help as how to complete a simple structure fire incident report.

Each Semi-Annual Change Costs Money

Aside from the cost in time it takes for the staff to implement and indoctrinate the local fire service in the multiple changes, there is a monetary value to be considered. We may have to bring in a consultant to make changes in the data entry program. New revisions of the Quick Reference Guide may need

to be printed and distributed to fire departments. And new forms may need to be produced and distributed to the departments that are still not filing electronically (which is approximately half of the 365 fire departments in MA).

Data Quality Is Suffering

The last problem all of these updates creates on the state level is the lack of accurate data reporting. Once we disseminate all the new ways we want specific types of incidents coded, we have to go back to the local fire departments and tell them that they now have to do it another way. This is a new system. Without a set of well-known guidelines in place from the state (or federal organizations), we cannot be sure that everyone is coding similar incidents the same way.

People will 'fudge' data to get it to save as a 'Valid' incident. The use of 'Undetermined' as an answer to key fields is likely to increase as the frustration level rises. This frustration dooms the entire system to failure. It has to be easy to do the right thing. Without this routine it is nearly impossible to try to discern accurate trends in the results.

Local Fire Department Problems

There is also the difficulty that the local fire departments are having with all of these changes. As a state agency we are only one organization. In Massachusetts alone, there are 365

individual jurisdictions that must come to terms with these mandates. As you know some will institute these changes as soon as they learn of them. Most will implement them over a couple of months time. For some it will take close to a year, while some will never implement them at all.

Every time a change is made, the local fire departments have to get an update from their third party vendor. They have to load that update onto their computers. Then someone has to retrain the trainer and the officers or firefighters that actually write/enter the reports have to be taught the new way to enter a report. In a good reporting department this usually takes 3-4 months.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we need this pause so we can get a solid foundation in place and have all state organizations and local fire departments able to build upon this foundation so that we may receive reliable data and achieve one of this agency's main mission goals. It takes approximately three years to implement an entirely new system like NFIRS version 5. To do this we need to have a stable system with established rules and guidelines. This break will also give NFIC and USFA the time they need to detect, correct and implement any major changes in a more reasoned and timely fashion. ♦



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

Graduation: Fatally Denied- A Video Experience

Amelia walks down the hallway and into her room. As she opens the door, you see a typical student room with books, computer, and posters on the wall. Along with these, you also see the overloaded outlet, the overflowing ashtray, candles that were left burning while she was out, incense burning, a coffee pot that was left on, and a smoke detector covered with plastic...again, typical items found in student's rooms.

This is the scenario for the new campus fire safety videotape *Graduation: Fatally Denied*. Shot through the eyes of the fictional student, Amelia, this tape takes the viewer through the entire experience of a fire. The tape will be available the beginning of September for distribution nationwide.

She lights up a cigarette, dumps the ashtray into the wastebasket and sits down in her chair to study, where she falls asleep. She is suddenly awakened by the sound of her smoke detector...and the room on fire.

The objective of the video was to develop a program that is dramatic, hard-hitting and brief. Within a few minutes, the drama and tragedy of a fire is portrayed to the students through the eyes of a student.

After Amelia wakes up and finds her room on fire, she stands up into the smoke layer. Since the fire at the end of the bed traps her, she tries to get out by crawling over the bed, but is overcome, collapses and becomes unconscious.

A production of Campus Firewatch, *Graduation: Fatally Denied* was funded through the generosity of organizations and companies dedicated to reducing the number of student fires.

When Amelia opens her eyes again, she is being carried out of the building by two firefighters. They take her down her hallway, down the stairs to the waiting

ambulance. As she looks down she can see her burned legs...her sneakers that have been melted from the heat.

The video was shot on site at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst, the Amherst Fire Department and Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, Massachusetts. Each of these organizations provided incredible support for the project. We built a mockup of the dorm room, outfitted it with furnishings, and then set it on fire to provide the realistic setting needed.

The paramedics start immediately working on her, putting her on oxygen, putting in IV lines and contacting the hospital. From what they are saying, and what they are doing, it is obvious that Amelia is in very serious condition.

Emergency Film Group, a video production company that specializes in video productions for the fire and rescue services, shot *Graduation: Fatally Denied*. The video was done entirely through the eyes of Amelia, which did present some interesting challenges to the production. The end result, however, is a very dramatic and effective one.

The hospital. The doors on the ambulance are pulled open, and Amelia is rushed into an emergency room where there is a team of doctors and nurses waiting. They start immediately treating her aggressively, but it is apparent that she is in serious condition and a prime candidate to be flown to a burn unit. The helicopter is ordered up, but before she can be transported, she goes into cardiac arrest...and dies.

All of the people seen in the video are real firefighters, paramedics, doctors and nurses. They played their "roles" by doing what they normally do...pull victims out of burning buildings, transport them to the hospital while trying to stabilize them, attempting to save their lives, no matter what condition they are in.

At the end of the tape we are back in Amelia's burned out room. The fire chief is inspecting it, and looks at the camera. He tells what could have been done to avoid this tragedy...smoking materials, overloaded outlets, covered smoke detector, sprinklers...all of these could have made a difference in the outcome of the fire.

Because of the generosity of the contributors to this project, the tape is available at cost. It is being distributed through Emergency Film Group at \$17.95 each, shipping included. You can order a copy through their website at www.efilmgroup.com, or by calling 1-800-842-0999. Bulk copies are also available at reduced prices. ♦

Handbook on Firesetting in Children and Youth

Trooper Paul Zipper, assigned to the Fire Investigation Unit, is a contributing author in *Handbook on Firesetting in Children and Youth* published by Academic Press. This text reference provides state-of-the-art information on juvenile firesetters and reviews the current research on youthful firesetters and arsonists. The book illustrates methods of fire scene investigation and assessment relating to child-parent and family factors. This information is then used to prescribe interventions with the individual along with community-wide programs.

Trooper Zipper discusses *Tips and Techniques for Interviewing Juveniles* in chapter 6. This chapter reviews legal issues when conducting juvenile interrogations, addresses the importance collecting background information and includes training and reference information. For more information go to <http://www.academicpress.com/>. ♦

8th Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

The 8th annual *Fire and Life Safety Education Conference* was held September 23-24, 2002. Despite the lack of S.A.F.E. Grant funding, 200 firefighters, nurses, teachers, and health educators from around New England attended the conference, held in



Dep. State Fire Marshal Thomas P. Leonard

Westford, MA. Thirty workshops and several general sessions were conducted on a variety of life safety topics and teaching skills over the course of the two days.

While attendance was down, due in large part to the last minute elimination of S.A.F.E. funding (that left people scrambling late in the budget season to salvage programs and make hard choices between training their people or conducting programs), those who did attend

are those who are truly committed to life safety education. Through the evaluations they indicated they appreciated the fact that the conference continued despite

difficult economic times because they were able to take a lot away from the conference that would be helpful in their own community.

In addition, the conference participants were buoyed by the news announced by Secretary Jajuga when he addressed the conference that he would be allocating some federal funds under his jurisdiction this fall and again next spring to support public fire education.

The keynote speaker was Mary K. Marchone, who spent thirty years as a fire and life safety education with the Montgomery County (MD) Fire Department. She spoke on *Managing from the Middle: The key to being a successful fire educator*

drew from her experience and discussed the qualities and actions of effective fire educators. Ms. Marchone has participated in developing courses at the National Fire Academy such as *Community Education Leadership*. Being married to the fire chief in Jackson,



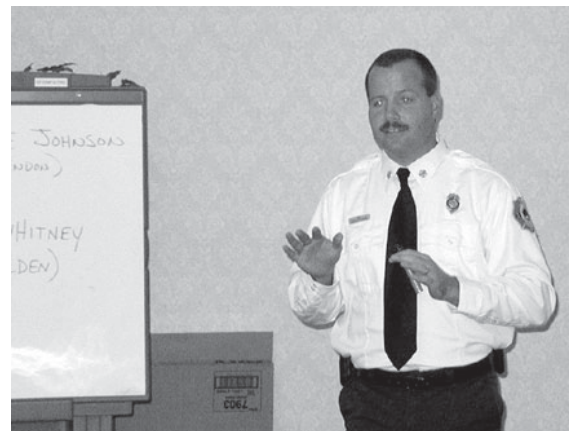
Maria Trozzi, M. Ed., The Good Grief Program



High School Teach Beth Fitzpatrick and her students

Michigan has given her a unique perspective on the fire service. Since she was not the planned keynote speaker, she was very kind to step in when her colleague cancelled at the last minute due to a family emergency. We were lucky to have her there already as a workshop presenter.

Maria Trozzi, M.Ed. addressed the audience on the topic of *Working with Children after a Fire*. She is an assistant



Mendon Fire Chief Charlie Johnson

professor of pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, a consultant for the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital in Boston and Director of the nationally renowned Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center, and author of *Talking to Children about Loss*. Her credentials and expertise have established her as one of the foremost experts on child bereavement in the

Continued on page 20

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

FPW Event at the State House Honors Young Heroes

Public Safety Secretary James P. Jajuga officially announced on October 9 the partial restoration of funding for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program funding. The announcement was made during national Fire Prevention Week (October 6-11, 2002) at a State House ceremony. Secretary Jajuga was joined by State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and fire service leaders in honoring a number of "Young Heroes" from the S.A.F.E. Program. With parents, fire chiefs and S.A.F.E. educators looking on, awards were presented to ten "Young Heroes" for heroically saving themselves or others by practicing the lessons they learned in school through the S.A.F.E. Program.

Secretary Jajuga said, "I am pleased to be able to allocate some federal monies under the jurisdiction of the Executive Office of Public Safety to keep the Student Awareness of Fire Education or S.A.F.E. Program alive this year." Jajuga commented that the S.A.F.E. Program was one that he helped to create when he was Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Safety. As he presented the S.A.F.E. Young Hero Medals to the youngsters from Arlington, Ipswich, Southbridge, Sudbury, Swampscott, and Warren, Jajuga said, "I am as proud of each you as your parents, teachers and fire chiefs are. I hope that by keeping this program going, that there will be many more success stories next year."

The funds for the Student Awareness of Fire Education program will come in two parts: \$300,000 in federal grant money this fall and \$300,000 next spring. Fire departments will be invited to apply for grants to support school safety initiatives with special emphasis on school fire safety. Fire departments will have to work with their local

schools to re-tool their S.A.F.E. Programs to teach fire safety in the context of making schools safer places to work and to study. The more students, teachers and staff know about fire safety and fire prevention, the safer they will be while at school.

Papa Gino's provided a free pizza lunch for the attendees

The Student Awareness of Fire Education Program was created by the legislature in 1995 so that firefighters, in close collaboration with teachers and health educators, could teach students about fire and particularly the fire hazards that tobacco products pose. Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires and in 2001, caused one-third of fire deaths in homes. In the first seven years of the S.A.F.E. Program, there have been 170 "Young Heroes" from the S.A.F.E. Program. For a full listing, please look on our website at www.mass.gov/dfs/dfs/lifesafe/youngheroeswork.htm.

The following is a brief description of the heroic deeds of the "young heroes" honored at today's event.

Arlington

☼ Sarah Daum and Daniel Jacobson

On April 17, 2002, 6-year old kindergarten students Sarah Daum and Daniel Jacobson were playing in Daniel's yard when they saw a fire in a pile of combustibles, stacked against a neighbor's house. Sarah and Daniel reported the fire to Daniel's mother, who then called 911. Because of their prompt actions the fire was extinguished quickly and damage was minimized. Sarah and Daniel received their S.A.F.E. education at the Dallin Elementary School from the Arlington Fire Department.

Ipswich

☼ Alexandra Manos

On August 18, 2001, 9-year old Alexandra Manos smelled smoke in her

house. She went to her parents' room to alert them and saw smoke coming from an electrical switch in their bedroom. She told them to call the fire department, then she led her younger sister to the front door and out of the house to a safe place. The fire department arrived to find burnt, arcing wires in the switch box. Alexandra learned fire safety from the Ipswich Fire Department's S.A.F.E. Program at her school.

Quincy

☼ John Kurpeski & Daniel Poggi

On March 26, 2002 at 1:05-p.m., 13-year olds John Kurpeski and Daniel Poggi were riding their bikes when they spotted smoke coming from a 6-unit rooming house. The boys immediately went to John's house and told John's mother to report the fire. Fire officials credit the quick actions of John and Daniel in reporting the fire for helping to keep the fire confined to the room of origin. John and Daniel received their S.A.F.E. education at the Wollaston Elementary School from the Quincy Fire and School Departments.

Southbridge

☼ Jennifer Belforte

On January 7, 2002, third grader Jennifer Belforte discovered a fire in her home, alerted her mother and directed her to call 911. Jennifer also notified the other residents in the building of the danger as she exited from the structure. Jennifer's quick actions helped to prevent a possible tragedy. Jennifer received her S.A.F.E. education from the Southbridge Fire and School Departments.

Sudbury

☼ Greg Strait

On January 6, 2002 at 4:15 AM, the Strait family was awakened by the sound of smoke detectors. An electrical fire in the basement had disabled the hard-wired smoke detection system, and the battery-powered detectors the

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

family installed for added protection were sounding. The living area was filling with thick smoke. Eight year old Greg and his mother crawled low beneath the smoke and out the front door. His father and two sisters used the second escape route to exit from the kitchen door. The family met outside, at their meeting place and did a head count. They called the Sudbury Fire Department from a neighbor's house. Greg and his family had practiced a home escape plan as part of the fire safety lessons he had received at the Noyes School from the Sudbury Public Schools and the Sudbury Fire Department's S.A.F.E. Program.

Swampscott

☼ Lucie Wallace

In March, 2002, 12-year old Lucie Wallace was babysitting for two young children ages 7 and 9. As they were watching television Lucie smelled smoke. She went to the kitchen and found a fire in the toaster oven. She immediately unplugged the toaster and helped the two children outside to safety. Lucie's quick thinking, unplugging the toaster and taking the children outside, prevented a serious fire from occurring and protected the children from harm. Lucie received her S.A.F.E. education during a Babysitter Safety class from the Swampscott Fire Department.

Taunton

☼ Ashley Damon

On April 13, 2002, 9-year old Ashley Damon was at home with her mother and her two younger brothers, when a fire broke out in their kitchen. Ashley remembered what she had learned in school about E.D.I.T.H. (Exit Drills In The Home) and immediately led her younger brothers, away from the danger, to the family meeting place outside the home. Ashley's mother was able to safely extinguish the fire prior to the arrival of the fire department.

Ashley received her S.A.F.E. education from the Taunton Fire and School Departments.

Warren

☼ Kayla Bedell

On October 17, 2001 at 02:37 hrs, the Bedell household awoke to the sound of smoke detector alarms. Mr. and Mrs. Bedell alerted their three daughters, who were in an adjacent bedroom. Six year old Kayla remained calm and remembered her lessons in fire safety. She immediately made sure her sisters, ages 2 & 4, were awake and kept them at her side. Kayla informed the family members that they needed to crawl low beneath the smoke. The family safely exited the home, proceeded to their meeting place on their neighbor's porch, and placed a call to the Fire Department. Kayla, a first grader at the Warren Community Elementary School had received fire safety instruction from the Warren Fire Department S.A.F.E. Program one week earlier. That evening she went home and encouraged the family to practice an escape plan. ♦

84 Papa Gino's Open Houses

Papa Gino's Inc. for the 9th year in a row, supported open houses at fire stations in communities where they have restaurants. In addition to providing free pizza, they provide educational materials, a banner, free publicity, and promote fire safety in their stores throughout the month of October. Eighty-four fire departments participated this year. ♦

Living With Fire

By Ed Comeau, Editor of FireWatch

The Living With Fire project is into the production stage!

We have been working on compiling the information submitted to us, developing new material, and putting it all together to be posted on the U.S. Fire Administration website. *Living With Fire* (www.livingwithfire.org) was unveiled at the Campus Fire Safety Forum III at the NFPA Fall Meeting in Dallas, Texas on November 11.

Funding for the project was provided by seven organizations committed to reducing the tragic incidence of fire at our nation's colleges and universities. They include:

- American Cancer Society
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association
- National Fire Sprinkler Association
- NFPA International
- SimplexGrinnell
- U.S. Fire Administration
- University of Texas System

A pilot program to test the material and content was originally scheduled for September in the Amherst, Massachusetts area. There are five different colleges and universities that were going to participate, and this would have provided an excellent opportunity to test-drive some of the components. However, because of the events of 9/11 this pilot program has been postponed until April 2002.

What is going to be in Living With Fire? The following is a rundown of the content that will be found on the USFA website starting November 11.

Incidents

A 63-page compilation of 2,000 incidents identified by *Campus*

Continued on next page

Living With Fire

Continued from previous page

Fire Watch is included. This compilation contains information such as the date, location, institution involved, fatalities (if any) as well as a thumbnail sketch of the incident. This compilation contains both on- and off-campus incidents and is the only such comprehensive compilation ever prepared.

Additional overviews of three significant fires were provided by NFPA's Fire Investigations Department.

Info Bulletins

A series of information bulletins on topics such as building fire safety, fire alarms, fire sprinklers, fire extinguishers and other areas have been written. These are targeted at students and are designed to be easily reproducible. They are in Microsoft Word® and can be easily customized by the individual institution by inserting their logos, contact information, etc.

Lesson Plans

Another "tool" in the toolbox is lesson plans that the campus fire safety educator can use and adapt as needed. Standard lesson plans in fire extinguishers, building evacuation, building fire safety and other areas will be available for download. These lesson plans contain an outline of the program as well as required equipment, suggested videos and additional resources, many of which are available right on the LWF website!

Live Burn

A significant amount of work was put into the development of a mockup of a student room. This was designed as a display, outfitted with typical furnishings and then set on fire. This provided the project with a wealth of information, photographs and videos.

Full-length videos of the burn are available on the website, as well as a series of photographs showing the fire growth and development in a very graphic way. A series of video public service announcements produced by the University of Massachusetts for the LWF project will also be included.

Photo Library

This is one of the more valuable components of the website. A photo library with a wealth of photographs submitted by campus fire safety professionals is available. This collection includes pictures of common violations, a "before and after" series on a loft fire, several series on fraternity fires, as well as off-campus house fires. These photos are copyright-free and can be downloaded and used by the campus fire safety educator in assembling their own programs, literature or presentations. The availability of such a library is unprecedented and provides a very valuable resource.

PowerPoint® Presentations

Several campus fire safety professionals have shared with us PowerPoint® presentations that they have prepared and used at their own institutions.

Promo Material

One of the common themes we hear about trying to reach out and touch the students is that you have to be creative and try to use different avenues and methods. This page provides the user with some tried and tested material, as well as new graphics developed exclusively for *Living With Fire*.

Some of these include bus ads and posters as well as stickers for pizza boxes.

Other promotional material that has evolved out of the suggestions from a focus group are fire-oriented crossword puzzles and word searches. These can be

printed out and submitted to the local student newspapers or used in other fire safety literature. Until we had to postpone the pilot program originally scheduled for September, we were planning on using completed crossword puzzles in a raffle for various prizes that the local merchants were donating.

Resources

There are several resources that have been developed for the user. One area that has been mentioned during the past forums is being able to work effectively with the press immediately following a fire, during the "teachable moment" phase when you have their attention. Towards this end, a short primer on crafting press releases, along with some examples, has been developed. This overview is available as a web page, but can also be printed out as a reference tool. It includes not only tips on formatting your press release, but also suggestions on content and resources that can be contacted for additional information.

Other resources provided include all of the 2000 issues of *Campus Firewatch*, as well as the document "20 Questions You Should Ask Before Renting."

Studies

There are several studies that have been carried out in a number of areas that can provide valuable information to the campus fire safety professionals that are putting together their own program.

Living With Fire is a "one-stop shop" of information for those involved in campus fire safety education and training. There is no other resource equal to this that is freely available for everyone to use-and please be sure to use it! ♦

Status Report of Compliance/Enforcement Actions

The following is a status report of recent compliance and enforcement actions taken by the Office of the State Fire Marshal against individuals or companies for violations of MGL Chap. 148 and 527 CMR. The status of the action is provided and notation

is made regarding the effective date of the action. While other actions may be pending, only those individuals or companies who have had administrative hearings with decisions rendered will be documented in this space.

Should there be any question regarding

the status of any license or certificate please call the Office of the State Fire Marshal at any time for verification. The Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit or Technical Services can be reached at either (978) 567-3300 or in Western Mass. (413) 587-3181. ♦

Compliance/Enforcement Actions By The Department of Fire Services

Blasting Certificate of Competency

Ray Lizott	Revoked	
Kevin MacDonald	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Patrick O'Conner	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/14/00
Charlie Despotopoulos	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Frank Kenefick	Suspended Three Years	Effective 6/14/01
Harlan Bean	Suspended Two Years	Effective 12/20/01
Paul Selmer	Suspended	Pending Re-examination
Peter Januskiewicz	Suspended	Re-Examination
Timothy Kenneally	Suspended	Pending Re-Examination

Explosives User's Certificate

Exquisite Craft Development	Suspended Five Years	Effective 4/9/01
Granite Rock Drilling & Blasting	Revoked	
Cynjo Corp.	Suspended Three Years	Effective 10/30/01
CD Explosives	Suspended Three Years	Effective 11/19/01

Fireworks Certificate of Competency

Joseph Capone	Suspended Three Months, Re-examination	Effective 9/25/02
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Fireworks User's Certificate

Fire Equipment Certificate of Competency

Dennis Welch	Suspended One Year, Re-examination	Effective 8/15/02
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Mass Decon Units

continued from page 1

Services in Stow, the first 23 of a planned total 92, custom designed, mass decontamination units were issued to Massachusetts' fire departments.

These units will allow fire departments to rapidly decontaminate hundreds of people who may have been exposed to

been in development for two and a half years that will provide Massachusetts with capabilities unmatched in the country and perhaps the world. The decontamination units have been purchased completely with federal terrorism grant money provided by the U.S. Department of Justice. The Department of Justice has committed additional anti-terrorism funds to place 69 additional units into service. The

deployment should be completed in the early part of next year.

The six regional "HazMat" teams have portable units for decontamination of rescued victims or the severely injured, but they are not capable of decontaminating hundreds of victims or potential victims (people who may or may not have been exposed to the agent). These new mass decontamination units can quickly process hundreds of people in an hour's time thus limiting exposure and possible contamination to the rest of the community. If people leave the scene under their own power, they could unthinkingly expose family, friends, their car, their home, and the hospital if they seek medical treatment. These rapidly deployed units will be able to quickly decontaminate people at the scene and also people trying to enter an hospital. Since an hospital is where sick people go for help, it is important that they are able to continue their work uninterrupted and that hospital patients and staff be protected from possible contamination.

These units will be equipped with shower systems, plumbing, diesel powered water heaters, air heaters, and generators, protective gear for firefighters, and containment for runoff water from decontamination.

This system in total gives Massachusetts a capability to manage mass contamination incidents that is unmatched in the country, if not the world. ♦

Fire & Rescue Magazine

Get your October 2002 edition of **Fire & Rescue** magazine before it's too late. OSFM's own Jacob Nunnemacher graces this edition's cover. The picture is from the roll-out demonstration of the new mass decontamination units. The article it is promoting is entitled *Hazmat Emergencies - What's the Solution?* There is also another picture of Jake and the HazMat techs at the beginning of the article. The website is <http://www.fireandrescue.net/>. ♦

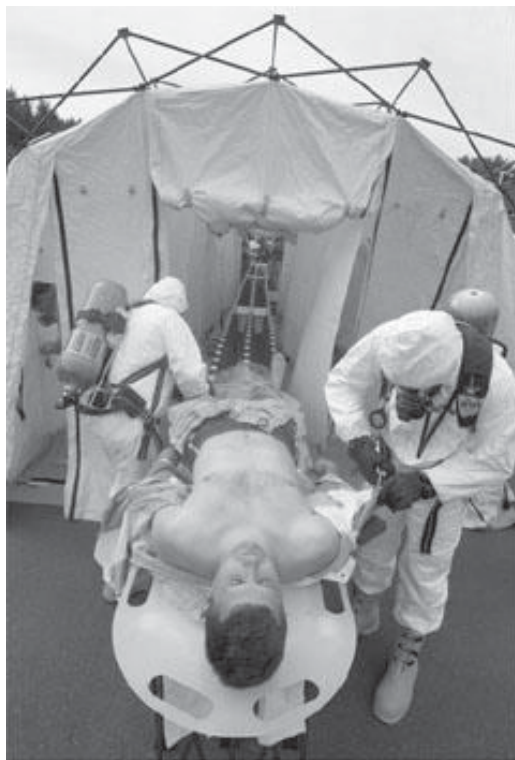


*Fire Chiefs, Sec. Jajuga, SFM Coan, DPH Dep. Cmmr. Nancy Ridley
Photo by Sue Peltier*

a chemical, radiological or biological agents. People who do not require rescue by the fire department can unintentionally spread contamination to home or hospital. These easily deployed systems will help fire departments respond to such emergencies and to protect hospitals so they may continue their healing mission.

The event included a display of the 23 units in trailers, comments by Secretary Jajuga and others and a demonstration of the set-up and operation of the decontamination units

The hand-off of this equipment to local fire departments will ultimately complete a plan that has



*Photo on Cover of Fire and Rescue Magazine,
Reprinted with permission.*

Firefighters Complete Rigorous Professional Training

Recruit Firefighting Training Program

The Program that NEVER Stops

By Jack Gelinas, Recruit Coordinator

Recruit Class 153 graduated from the 55-day/11-week training program on Friday, October 25, 2002. Forty-two firefighters graduated. These firefighters (thirty-nine men and three women) represented the fire departments of: Acton, Amherst, Andover, Bellingham, Billerica, Braintree, Canton, Falmouth, Hanson, Haverhill, Holbrook, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hull, Littleton, Longmeadow, Marshfield, Methuen, North Attleborough, Norwell, Peabody, Raynham, Seekonk, Southborough, Sudbury, Swampscott, Watertown, Wellesley and Woburn.

Cambridge Fire Department Chief of Operations John J. O'Donoghue was the guest speaker. Chief O'Donoghue is also the Coordinator of Development for the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Chief O'Donoghue's remarks were very appropriate for the occasion as he related his experiences as a firefighter, officer, and chief officer and the importance of training and motivation in the fire service and the special calling of a firefighter.

The 154th Class graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program on December 2, 2002. This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to effectively and safely perform



Recruit Class #153

their jobs. This program is offered, tuition-free, by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, a division of the Department of Fire Services.

The forty graduates, thirty-nine men and one woman, represent the fire departments of: Attleborough, Burlington, Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills, Dracut, Haverhill, Holyoke, Hull, Manchester, Peabody, Sandwich, Seekonk, Sturbridge, Sutton, Swampscott, Walpole, Watertown, Wayland, Westminster, Weston, Wilmington, and Winchester.

Lowell Firefighters Paul Cassella, John Dubey, and Kelly Page, who participated in a recent rescue during a serious fire, addressed the graduating recruits. ♦

Photos by Sue Peltier

ISFSI – The Voice Magazine

Congratulations to instructor Vinnie Russell who was recently published in the October issue of ISFSI's *The Voice*. This feature article is entitled, *Specialized Search Procedures: Wide Area Searches*. Vinnie is a Lieutenant with the Boston Fire Department and has been an instructor for our gas and recruit programs for 15 years. ♦

Mass. FIRE Act Recipients

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA) have announced Fiscal Year 2002 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Awards to more

than 2,700 fire departments. Over \$210 million have now been committed to support the safety and basic services provided by firefighters, throughout the United States. Sixty-

three (63) Massachusetts fire departments have received grants totalling \$4,263,271, or 2% of the \$210 million award nationwide.

Department	Grant Category	Amount
Acushnet Fire & Rescue	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$36,162
Amherst Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$225,000
Ashby F.D.	Fire Operations & Firefighter Safety	\$68,031
Beverly Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$18,702
Billerica Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$61,272
Blandford Vol. Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$22,226
Braintree Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$82,217
Centerville-Osterville -Marstons Mills Fire Dept.	Fire Prevention	\$53,604
Charlton Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$32,724
Chatham Fire & Rescue	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$8,145
Chester Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$73,980
Clinton Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$36,045
Dennis Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$64,532
Dracut Fire Dept.	Emergency Medical Services	\$29,259
Everett Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$78,891
Fall River Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$122,899
Gill Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$82,458
Gloucester Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$131,836
Granby Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$16,488
Great Barrington Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$117,000
Hadley Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$6,120
Harvard Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$17,093
Hingham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$8,321
Holland Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$17,595
Hoosac Hose Co.; Cheshire Vol. Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$38,736
Leverett Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$19,778
Lexington Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$189,000
Ludlow Fire Dept.	Fire Prevention	\$16,110
Lunenburg Fire Dept.	Firefighting Vehicle	\$180,000

Mass. FIRE Act Recipients*Continued from previous page*

Department	Grant Category	Amount
Marlborough Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$267,441
Maynard Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$19,283
Medfield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$67,500
Merrimac Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$45,000
Milton Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$47,429
Monterey Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$20,964
Natick Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$9,237
New Ashford Volunteer Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$21,061
New Salem Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$27,990
No. Attleborough Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$50,501
Northampton Fire Dept.	Fire Prevention	\$99,325
Oakham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$56,340
Onset Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$38,153
Quincy Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$290,763
Savoy Vol. Fire Dept.,	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$47,314
Sharon Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$39,564
Sherborn Fire & Rescue Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$24,318
South Deerfield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$46,148
South Hadley Fire Dist. #2 Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$12,240
Sterling Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$13,950
Stockbridge Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$8,514
Stoneham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$78,858
Three Rivers Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$47,700
Topsfield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$85,846
Hanson Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$199,716
Plymouth Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$172,590
Weston Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$93,771
Wakefield Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$123,750
West Barnstable Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$18,684
Westfield Fire Dept.	Fire Prevention	\$39,304
Westford Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$47,700
Westwood Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$7,290
Winchester Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$115,559
Wrentham Fire Dept.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	\$125,244



Fire Educator of the Year

Continued from page 11

country and she was able to provide concrete and age appropriate suggestions to the firefighter-educators in the audience. They are often called to help after a fatal fire in their community involving children, or will have children surprise them during regular fire safety lessons by relating personal experiences with fire.

The 2002 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award was presented to Capt. Robert Milne of Berkley Fire Department. Citations honoring the work and dedication of other fire and life safety educators were presented. Each one of the nominees has a great program in their community. The selection committee looks for someone who has gone above and beyond in terms of the depth or breadth or creativity of their program, created partnerships with other groups or agencies, has shown leadership at the regional or state level, and someone who has

been a resource to others. The winner is often asked to represent all fire and life safety educators in the state at events such as the Governor signing the Fire Prevention Week Proclamation or a S.A.F.E. Young Hero event.

The Massachusetts Fire and Safety Education Task Force, a volunteer group that advises the Public Education Manager in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, organizes and runs this conference each year as one of its projects. They did an excellent job of choosing workshops and speakers that were of interest and challenging to life safety educators. The conference itself ran smoothly from registration on the first day through issuance of final certificates at the close of the second.



The DFS Quarterly is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

In photo: l-r: Sec. Jajuga, Berkley Capt. Robert Milne - 2002 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year, FCAM President Chief Kevin Partridge, & State Fire Marshal Steve Coan



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